

NEWS RELEASE



STATE OF ALABAMA
Department of
Industrial Relations
News For Immediate Release
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INTERNET FILING OF NEW HIRES TO BE MANDATORY

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA, April 21, 2008 Effective May 1, 2008, Alabama employers with five or more employees will be required to report all newly-hired, rehired, and recalled workers electronically to the Alabama Department of Industrial Relations.

“While Alabama law has required new hire information since 1997, a recent rule change makes Internet reporting mandatory for most employers,” says Tom Surtees, Industrial Relations director. “However, employers with less than five employees have the option of continuing to report new hires by other methods approved by our agency and allowed by federal law, or through the Internet.”

The purpose of the Alabama New-Hire program is to reduce fraud in public compensation and support programs, and to help locate parents who may be delinquent in legal child support obligations.

“Internet reporting of new hires will not only help keep unemployment taxes lower through the prevention of fraudulent unemployment insurance payments, but also reduce our administrative costs,” says Surtees.

Information and instructions for Alabama New-Hire reporting are available at: <http://dir.alabama.gov/nh/>. In addition, answers to questions are available by calling 334-353-0408, or by sending an e-mail to newhire@dir.alabama.gov.

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Industrial Relations is an umbrella organization of State government which administers Employment Services, Unemployment Insurance, Workers' Compensation, and Labor Market Information. Smaller programs also administered include Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation, Mine Safety and Inspection, and Surface Mining of Non-Fuel Minerals. For more information on Industrial Relations, visit the Web site: <http://dir.alabama.gov>.